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Lewiston Man Sentenced on Firearm and Perjury Charges

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that a judge sitting in federal court in Portland late last week sentenced **Thomas Coty**, 25, of Lewiston to twenty months for making a false statement on a firearms acquisition form and committing perjury on a financial declaration to obtain court-appointed counsel.

According to court records, Coty attempted to purchase a firearm for a prohibited person from a federally-licensed firearms dealer in Lewiston, Maine in March 2006. Specifically, Coty made a statement on the firearms acquisition form denying the fact that he had an active protection from abuse order pending against him which prohibited him from possessing a firearm. Coty was indicted by a federal grand jury for the false statement on June 20, 2007.

On June 29, 2007, during an initial appearance in federal court, Coty swore to the truth of a written financial declaration in his name under penalty of perjury which stated that he was unemployed and had been since April 2007 when, in fact, Coty was employed. Records from the United States District Court show that Coty's application for court-appointed counsel was granted based on his financial declaration.

Following guilty pleas on both charges, Coty was sentenced late last week to twenty months in federal prison for the crimes. United States Attorney Silsby said that the investigation leading to the convictions was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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